



# Norfolk Community Services Board

Update: July 2004

Thomas S. Weaver, Chair

I would like to let you know about the following Norfolk Community Services Board activities that have taken place in recent weeks.

- **Student Assistance Counselors.** We have partnered with Norfolk Public Schools (NPS) to expand Student Assistance Counseling into three middle schools and one elementary school. The four new Counselors, along with their five colleagues in the City's high schools, are working with students, parents and faculty to promote healthy lifestyles and appropriate behavior. In the coming school year, Norfolk CSB will introduce new science-based prevention programs to reduce levels of violence (bullying) and substance abuse within schools and communities. NPS is enthusiastic that this expansion to younger children will also have a positive impact on academic performance. Our goal, with your support, will be to place Student Assistance Counselors in all of the City's nine middle schools and 33 elementary schools.
- **Early Childhood Issues.** Please attend the Infant Development Program graduation on August 18th at Easton Preschool, 6045 Curlew Drive, Norfolk. The ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m., and I assure you that you will feel your time there was well spent. The progress these children make during their time with us is astounding, and we would like to share this one-of-a-kind experience with you.
- **Homelessness in Norfolk.** Three ways in which we work to help Norfolk meet its goal of eliminating homelessness in the City are: (1) Each year we provide outreach to nearly 200 homeless individuals to get them into treatment. (2) We are now entering the third year of our HUD Shelter Plus Care program, which provides rental assistance as well as supportive care to individuals who are homeless and mentally ill or substance addicted. To date 56 residents have benefited from this program; 31 more are on a waiting list. (3) Our Substance Abuse Supportive Housing program just earned the Program of Excellence Award from the Virginia Association of Drug and Alcohol Programs.
- **Mental Retardation Waiver.** During the recent budget session, the Virginia General Assembly funded additional waiver slots for people with mental retardation. Norfolk CSB will receive 23 of those slots in Fiscal Years 2005-2006, leaving 23 individuals still on our Urgent Waiting List. Some Norfolk residents have been on the Urgent List for nearly a decade. Others are living with parents who have grown old while waiting and are no longer able to provide ongoing care for their adult child. In addition, another 114 residents are on the Non-Urgent Waiting List. They have little hope of receiving waiver services unless their situation deteriorates enough to place them on the Urgent List. We must work together to find a solution to this problem.



If you have any questions concerning these matters, please feel free to call me at 623-1929, or George Pratt, Executive Director, at 441-5300.

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